

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02351 241100Z

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 835

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2351

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: TOTAL TOADY TURNS AGAIN: PRIMITIVO MIJARES DEFECTS

REF: A) STATE 40130; B) MANILA 2294

1. MISSION ABLE CONFIRM PRIMITIVO MIJARES, FORMER CHAIRMAN MEDIA ADVISORY COUNCIL (ABOLISHED NOVEMBER 1974) AND WELL-KNOWN PHILIPPINE COLUMNIST AND MARCOS APOLOGIST HAS IN FACT ABANDONED NEW SOCIETY.

2. MIJARES' MOVED NOT SURPRISING TO MANILA COMMUNITY WHICH RECOGNIZES HIM AS COMPLETE OPPORTUNIST WHO RECENTLY WAS FEELING HOT BREATH OF MARTIAL LAW REGIME FOR CERTAIN RECENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. ALLEGEDLY, MIJARES GAMBLED AWAY 50,000 DOLLARS OF GOP FUNDS DURING A 1974 LAS VEGAS VISIT, MISAPPROPRIATED FOR PERSONAL USE 7,000 DOLLARS OF THE FIRST LADY'S PERSONAL FUNDS AND ATTEMPTED TO RAPE A WELL CONNECTED PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARY WHILE IN NEW YORK FOR THE TRADE CENTER OPENING, ALL OF WHICH ACCUMULATED TO MAKE PROSPECT OF RETURN TO PHILIPPINES DECREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE.

3. FINAL PUSH TO ACTION MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY PHILIPPINE OPPOSITION GROUP IN US AND FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS OF LOPEZ FAMILY MEMBERS. LOCAL LOPEZES GOT WORD OF SAN FRANCISCO STORY FEBRUARY 21 AND QUICKLY BEGAN TELEPHONING GLAD NEWS AROUND TOWN.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02351 241100Z

4. RUMORS PERSIST THAT MIJARES DAILY COLUMN IN MARCOS NEWS-PAPER EXPRESS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED IN ORDER POSTPONE PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF MIJARES' DEPARTURE. HOWEVER, IT FAILED TO APPEAR FOR FIRST TIME FEB. 21. COLUMN HAS ALWAYS BEEN GHOSTED BY SEVERAL ASSOCIATES ANYWAY SO THAT ABSENCE OF MIJARES' PERSONAL TOUCH WOULD HARDLY BE NOTICED.

5. COMMENT: MIJARES' DEPARTURE NO MATTER HOW PHRASED OR DESCRIBED AND NOTWITHSTANDING HIS LOW ESTEEM IN COMMUNITY CANNOT HELP BUT BE ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO MARCOS. INVOLVEMENT OF LOPEZES IN HIS DECISION TO DENOUNCE MARCOS WILL BE PARTICULARLY DISTURBING. MIJARES HAS BEEN CONTINUAL SUPPORTER OF MARCOS FOR NUMBER OF YEARS AND ALONE AMONG PRE-MARTIAL LAW JOURNALISTS WAS UNQUESTIONED ADMIRER OF PRESIDENTS. AS CONSEQUENCE, HE REPORTEDLY WAS ONE OF FEW INTIMATES WHO HAD DIRECT ACCESS TO MARCOS' STUDY. HE HAS PERFORMED MANY SERVICES FOR MARTIAL LAW REGIME AND UNDOUBTEDLY HAS MUCH INSIDE KNOWLEDGE THAT, IF MADE PUBLIC, COULD CAUSE DISTRESS TO GOP. HOWEVER, MIJARES HAS BEEN CANNY ENOUGH IN THE PAST THAT HE MAY CHOOSE NOT TO REVEAL ALL MERELY TO INSURE THAT AT LEAST SOME BRIDGE REMAINS UNBURNED. ALLEGATION ABOUT REFERENDUM, REF B, HOWEVER, ALMOST DAMAGING ENOUGH IN ITSELF TO MAKE MIJARES PERSONNA NON GRATA.

6. ASSUME MARCOS WILL WANT TO KEEP THIS QUITE AS LONG AS HE CAN. IF IT BEGINS TO SEEP OUT, HE MAY WANT TO SMEAR MIJARES WITH IRREGULARITIES INCLUDING ASSOCIATION WITH LOPEZES. WHAT REPERCUSSIONS THAT COULD HAVE ON PROSPECTS OF RELEASE OF EUGENIO LOPEZ JR. IS ANYONE'S GUESS. SULLIVAN

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